

*10 my. Sam. Friend Friscom*  
*78*

**CORRESPONDENCE**

*Pam. India*

BETWEEN

THE SUPREME GOVERNMENT

OF

**BENGAL,**

AND THE

**MISSIONARIES AT SERAMPORE,**

IN 1812, AND 1813,

RELATIVE TO MESSRS. JOHNS AND LAWSON, WHICH TERMINATED  
IN THE EXPULSION OF MR. JOHNS FROM INDIA, FOR  
HAVING GONE THITHER WITHOUT LEAVE OF

**THE COURT OF DIRECTORS.**

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1814.



CORRIGENDUM

THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS

BENGAL

MISSIONS IN ARRIVAL

1812-1813

THE COURT OF DIRECTORS

1814



## ADVERTISEMENT.

IN compliance with the very general desire which has been expressed by the friends of the Baptist Mission in India, to be made acquainted with the particulars of Mr. Johns's return, he is induced to publish the following correspondence which he compiled during his stay at St. Helena; and which, he trusts, will at once both exonerate him from the slightest imputation of blame, and forcibly evince the propriety of the late interference of the legislature to grant legal protection to persons engaged in propagating Christianity among the natives of India.

The editor did expect that the worthy gentlemen who conduct the affairs of the Mission, would have published this correspondence under their immediate auspices, but as the law above alluded to has provided for the security of future Missionaries, it may reasonably be imagined, they have no wish further to agitate a question, from which, their cause can derive no advantage; but the editor, who has, by this arbitrary exertion of official power, been deprived of his situation, and compelled to abandon an object to which, above a third of his life has been exclusively devoted, must necessarily deeply feel, and deprecate so oppressive a measure.

It has not only dissolved his connexion with the excellent Society with whose patronage he was honoured, but his own character might have sustained a deterioration, by his being peremptorily banished India as though found guilty of some offence.

When the first teachers of Christianity went to the heathens, it was not surprising that the heathen magistrates should have endeavoured to oppose their instructions, and even to offer violence to their persons, but that a civilized and enlightened Government should create impediments to the diffusion of its own religion, and in this degrading and contradictory warfare; grow so warm as to evade, even its own engagements, is so strange and incredible, that the writer imagined no account, short of copies of the official



documents, would convince the public that such a transaction could possibly have taken place.

It may, indeed, be objected, that as permission to reside in India, had not been previously obtained from the Honourable Court of Directors in London, the editor has no right to complain of the operation of a law to which he knew himself to be subject. But, is it not to be regretted that so respectable a body as the Honourable Court should have entertained such prejudices against Christian Missionaries, as would have rendered any application to them fruitless? and is not the Government in India justly chargeable with partiality and oppression for having rigorously enforced the law in the case of one individual, while it overlooks its violation by hundreds, in this respect, in similar circumstances?

But the object of the editor in presenting the following pages to the public, is rather to afford, by the correspondence of the missionaries and of Government itself, decisive testimony that no impropriety of conduct was urged as the cause of his return, than to indulge feelings of resentment against the high authority which has, in this instance, borne so heavily upon him. How this circumstance may affect his future life, it is impossible for him to determine, but, as a husband and a father, he cannot but lament the entire derangement of plans which have, for twelve years, occupied his attention in the most important period of life, and which, but for this impediment, promised to be attended with complete success.

Nothing further will he add, than that his immediate connexion with the Baptist Missionary Society, being dissolved, merely in consequence of the conduct of the British Government in India, the present publication is entirely his own act, and that he feels satisfied the explanation given, as the ground of it, will secure him from all censure from those excellent men with whom he has been engaged, and in whose remembrance and friendship he hopes to live and die.

WILLIAM JOHNS.

5, St. Vincent-place,  
City Road, London, Feb. 18, 1814.



THE  
CORRESPONDENCE, &c.

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The Missionaries at Serampore, Bengal, having been informed of the embarkation of Messrs. Lawson and Johns for Calcutta, immediately resolved to address Government on the subject, which they did in the following Letter from Dr. Marshman to N. B. Edmonstone, Esq. the chief Secretary.

No. I.

*To N. B. Edmonstone, Esq. Chief Secretary to  
Government.*

Serampore, June 18, 1812.

DEAR SIR,

THE generous treatment I have uniformly received from you, makes me wish, as I hinted the last time you honoured me with an interview, to communicate to you any circumstance relative to our affairs, which can be in the least degree interesting. I therefore intrude a moment on your valuable

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time to say, that by an American ship which arrived yesterday, we have heard that Mr. Lawson, a wood engraver, and an admissable artist, for whom we wrote about four years ago, with a view to his improving the Chinese types, and who has been in America nearly a twelvemonth, is on his way hither in an American ship with a Mr. Johns, whom we trained up to medical studies with a view to Serampore; but whom we now wish to send to Java, or somewhere to the eastward of Malacca.

Should it please Government, on his arrival, to permit Mr. Lawson to reside with us at Serampore, he will be of the utmost service to us, both in improving the Chinese types, and our paper manufactory, which we have with much expence set on foot, with the hope of rendering the paper of this country impervious to worms.

I will intrude no further on your important avocations than merely to say, that these two are the only persons of our connection, respecting whose coming to India, we have, at present, the most distant expectation.

I am, &c.

J. MARSHMAN.



No. II.

Reply from the Chief Secretary to Dr. Marshman.

*To the Rev. J. Marshman, &c.*

Calcutta, June 23, 1812.

DEAR SIR,

I AM favoured with your Letter of the 18th inst. which I duly communicated to the Governor General in Council, by whom I am instructed to inform you, that this Government does not possess authority to grant licenses to British subjects to reside in India ; but, that *Government will not object to Messrs. Lawson and Johns remaining until the pleasure of the Court of Directors regarding them shall be known.*

Believe me, my dear Sir, with great regard,

Yours, most faithfully,

N. B. EDMONSTONE.

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No. III.

*From Dr. Marshman to the Chief Secretary.*

DEAR SIR,

I AM honoured with yours of the 23d inst. in reply to mine of the 18th. and we cannot but feel particularly obliged by its contents. I had no



idea that you would have communicated the contents of it to his Lordship, but I felt such a communication due to the friendly spirit you have so constantly manifested towards us, whenever your public duties (which are paramount to every other consideration) would permit; and to your important station which renders it so much your duty to watch for the safety and welfare of the British Empire in India.

It was our intention, on the arrival of Messrs. Lawson and Johns, to present our humble request to his Lordship, respecting Mr. Lawson's residing with us. But, as his Lordship has been pleased so graciously to anticipate our application, and to free us from such distressing embarrassment by readily pointing out our line of duty, and in the meantime indulging us so far as the laws permit, we intreat you will have the goodness to communicate to his Lordship, the deep sense we feel of his Lordship's generous good-will towards us.

Be pleased, dear Sir, to accept yourself our most grateful acknowledgments, and my own in particular, for this new instance of your goodness.

I have the honour to remain with the highest respect,

Dear Sir,

Your most obliged,

faithful and humble servant,

J. MARSHMAN.

[Here follows a P. S. relative to a Grammar of the Chinese language.]



On August the 10th. Messrs. Lawson and Johns arrived at Calcutta, in the *Harmony*, from Philadelphia; and, after a little hesitation on the part of the Police Magistrate, on account of some informalities, they were allowed to proceed to Serampore.

In a few days, in consequence of the two following letters from N. Wallich, Esq. and Mr. Ward, a communication was made from Government to Mr. Johns, appointing him to act as Surgeon to the settlement of Serampore during the absence of Mr. Wallich, who retired for a time in consequence of ill health.

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No. IV.

*From N. Wallich, Esq. M.D. Surgeon to the Settlement of Serampore, to Gordon Forbes, Esq. Commissioner for the Foreign Settlements.*

Serampore, August 14, 1812.

MY DEAR SIR,

MR. WM. JOHNS, belonging to the Missionary Society, arrived at Serampore yesterday. He is a member of the Royal College of Surgeons in London; and, according to the testimony of many, an able surgeon.

Being very willing to undertake my part, during the time of my absence, he has desired me



to request the favor of you to recommend him to Government to succeed me in the capacity of Settlement Surgeon, for the time of my voyage ; and I beg leave to add, that I should feel most happy to leave my patients in such able hands.

I have the honour, &c.

N. WALLICH,

Surgeon to the Danish Prisoners  
of War, Serampore.

No. V.

*From the Rev. W. Ward, on the part of the  
Missionaries at Serampore, to the same.*

Serampore, August 12, 1812.

SIR,

MR. JOHNS, one of our brethren just arrived from England, and who is a member of the Royal College of Surgeons in London, and has leave from the Governor General in Council to remain in this country until the pleasure of the Honourable Court of Directors is known, would be glad to occupy the place of our esteemed friend, Dr. Wallich, during his absence, if it be agreeable ; and should you favour our family in recommending him to this situation, you will very highly oblige Dr. Wallich (as he has ordered me to say)



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as well as the brethren of the Mission at Serampore, for whom I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obliged humble servant,

(Signed)

WILLIAM WARD.

*To Gordon Forbes, Esq.  
Commissioner, &c.*

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No. VI.

*From L. Pay, Esq. Assistant Commissioner,  
Serampore, to Mr. W. Johns.*

SIR,

I HAVE the pleasure to transmit to you the enclosed communication from Mr. Forbes, respecting the pleasure of the Right Honourable the Governor General in Council, having sanctioned your appointment to act as Surgeon at Serampore, during the absence of Mr. Wallich, &c.

Also I have to inform you about the arrangement with the native doctors, which Mr. Wallich had made previous to his departure, probably according to his convenience—how far the men are qualified, you will learn from them, and this mode will be continued by you.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient humble servant,

(Signed)

L. PAY,

Assistant to the Commissioner.

Serampore,  
August 29, 1812.



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No. VII.

The following is a Copy of the Enclosure referred to in the foregoing.

*To Mr. Johns.*

SIR,

THE Right Honourable the Governor General in Council having sanctioned your appointment to act as Surgeon at Serampore, during the absence of Mr. Wallich, on the terms settled between you and that gentleman, you will accordingly be pleased to take charge of the medical duties of the Settlement.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

GORDON FORBES, Commissioner.

Serampore,  
August 29, 1812.

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No. VIII.

*Reply to the Assistant Commissioner.*

SIR,

YOUR polite communication with an enclosure from Gordon Forbes, Esq. I have this moment received. Accept my best thanks for the trouble



you have taken. It shall be my study and delight to discharge the duties of the appointment.

Respecting the native doctors, a proper attention shall be paid to them.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obliged obedient Servant,

WILLIAM JOHNS.

Mission-House, Serampore,  
August 30, 1812.

*To L. Pay, Esq.  
Assistant Commissioner.*

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W. Johns, considering this official appointment by Government as a confirmation of the former permission to remain, imagined himself secure from any probability of being obliged to return; and making his arrangements accordingly, applied himself to the discharge of his medical duties, in which he continued without any further intimation of the intentions of Government till January 5, 1813, when Mr. Marshman, who, having called on Mr. Ricketts, one of the Government Secretaries, to solicit permission for Mr. Robinson\* to embark in a Government ship to Java, was shewn, by that gentleman, a letter addressed to him by the supercargoes of the Harmony, (in which Messrs. Lawson and Johns, came to Bengal,) desiring Mr. Ricketts to order the release of the said

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\* One of the Missionaries who arrived in 1806.



ship, detained by the police magistrate, on account of Messrs. Lawson and Johns, viz. because they had come to India without the permission of the Court of Directors. Leave for Mr. Robinson was refused, and an inquiry set up, "Wherefore did Messrs. Robinson, Johns, &c. come to Bengal, *via* America?" Mr. Marshman explained and said, he would send a copy of the correspondence which had already taken place. This was sent in the course of the day, dated January 4, 1813, this led so a private correspondence of some length between Mr. Ricketts and Mr. Marshman, and on the 10th of January, the following note, addressed to Mr. Marshman, was received from Mr. Secretary Ricketts.

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No. IX.

*Calcutta*, January 10, 1813.

DEAR SIR,

I MUST still request you will mention, for the information of Government, whether Messrs. Lawson, Johns, and Robinson, did ask permission of the Court of Directors to come to India? If this question be not answered, we shall conclude that they did ask leave and were refused,

Yours obediently,

(Signed) C. M. RICKETTS.



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No. X.

To this Mr. Marshman returned the following.

*Serampore, January 11, 1813.*

DEAR SIR,

I WAS yesterday honoured with yours of the 10th, and although we have received no communication on this subject, yet from circumstances rendering it advantageous for our two brethren to proceed to America, we have reason to believe that no application was made to the Honourable the Court of Directors on their behalf.

I have the honour to remain,

Dear Sir,

Your faithful and obedient Servant,

(Signed)

JOSHUA MARSHMAN.

*To C. M. Ricketts, Esq.  
Secretary, &c.*

Three days after this Mr. Marshman received an official letter from Mr. Ricketts, as Public Secretary, of which the following is a copy.

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No. XI.

*To Mr. Joshua Marshman, at Serampore.*

Public Department.

SIR,

WITH reference to the application which you have made in a private form,\* requesting the sanction of Government for Messrs. Lawson, Johns, and

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\* It is not easy to determine to what private application this letter refers, the application made on the 5th was sim-



Robinson, to remain in India, I am directed by the Right Honourable the Governor General in Council, to desire that you will call on these gentlemen respectively, to report, for the information of Government, whether or not they applied to the Honourable the Court of Directors,† for permission to come to this country, and if they did not so apply, the cause of their not doing so, and by what ship they came to Bengal.

Secondly, An application having been made to Government, on the part of Mr. May, similar to the above-mentioned, you are requested to obtain from him, information corresponding with that required from the other three persons.

Thirdly, In communicating the answers of these persons to Government, you will be pleased to add such information with respect to their characters, as you may consider it proper to bring to the notice of Government.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

C. M. RICKETTS,

*Secretary to the Government.*

Council-Chamber, Jan. 15, 1813.

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ply, that Mr. Robinson might be allowed to proceed to Java: the former was, that Mr. Lawson might remain at Serampore, and Mr. Johns might go to Java, or the eastward of Molacca.

† Government could not be at a loss on this subject, had Messrs. Lawson and Johns permission to reside from the Honourable Court of Directors, they would not have solicited permission from the Government in India.



( 13 )

No. XII.

*From the same to the same.*

[Private.]

DEAR SIR,

IN replying to the latter part of the accompanying official letter, as you may wish to refer to your several communications to me, I have the pleasure to return them.

Yours, very obediently,

(Signed) C. M. RICKETTS.

January 20, 1813.

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No. XIII.

Answer to the Public Letter.

*To C. M. Ricketts, Esq. Secretary to Government, &c.*

SIR,

IN compliance with your official letter of the 15th instant, desiring me to call on Messrs. Lawson, *Johns*, Robinson, and May, to report for the information of Government, whether or not they applied to the Honourable the Court of Directors, for permission to come to this country, and if they did not so apply, the cause of their not doing so, and by what ship they came to Bengal, I have communicated a copy of the official letter to each of those gentlemen: and now do myself the honour of stating to you their respective answers which I have not been able to do till to-day, on account of not receiving Mr. May's answer before.

Messrs. Lawson and Johns state, that having



offered themselves to the Baptist Missionary Society about four years ago; the former, with a view to the exercise of his art, as an engraver on wood, and the latter of being useful in his medical capacity. That Society, in 1810, sent them to America, with directions to proceed finally to India. That, after a stay of nearly a year in America, in which 4600 dollars were collected to carry forward the translations in our hands, they proceeded with the sums to Bengal, on board the *Harmony*, Captain Brown. That they have reason to think no application was made to the Honourable Court of Directors on their behalf, that no communication was made to them of the reason of this omission, but from the conversation which they heard on the subject, they have reason to believe that it did not arise from any want of respect towards the Honourable Court of Directors, but from the idea that it was their general rule to grant express permission to reside in India, to none except those employed in their service, and the Baptist Society, not expecting that they would break through this rule for the sake of a few obscure individuals, forbore to harass them with a fruitless application. At the same time *knowing that many individuals were permitted to reside in Calcutta, and were highly useful to the settlement, who had never obtained express permission from the Honourable Court of Directors to reside in India,* they sent out Messrs. Lawson and Johns, by way of America, hoping, that as long as their conduct was found correct, they would experience the



indulgence from Government which is extended to so many other Europeans in India.

On our being informed that Messrs Lawson and Johns were coming to Bengal in an American ship, a letter was sent to the Chief Secretary, informing him that two young men of our connection were coming to Bengal in the American ship Harmony, the one an engraver, with the view of improving the Chinese, and other types: and the other, a medical man, with a view of being useful in his medical capacity, and expressing the obligations we should feel to Government, were they permitted to join us on their arrival. In reply to which, we were honoured with the following letter from the Chief Secretary.

*(For this Letter see No. 2.)*

Mr. Lawson was brought up in London to the art of an engraver in wood, in which he is eminent, particularly in cutting vignettes, &c. He was induced to offer his services to the Missionaries, at Serampore, on account of the Chinese, which his Lordship was pleased to notice in so liberal a manner in his Lordship's speech to the College about four years ago, after making up his mind on that subject, Mr. Lawson further learned the art of cutting punches for types in metal, with the view of improving the Indian founts of types. He has cut some admirable specimens both in the Bengalee and Deva Nagree character, and has undertaken a complete fount of Chinese types, to include every character in the language on a reduced



scale particularly neat, for an English edition of the Imperial Dictionary, which we hope soon to put to press. About a thousand of the characters are already cut under his inspection. He is also skilful in drawing and music, which he teaches in our school. He is about twenty-five years of age, a married man, and has two infant daughters.

Mr. William Johns was brought up in London, to the study and practice of chemistry. He afterwards studied surgery, under various professional men, and is a member of the Royal College of Surgeons in London. At the recommendation of Gordon Forbes, Esq. Commissioner for Chinsurah and Serampore, he has been appointed by Government to the charge of the medical duties of Serampore in the absence of Mr. N. Wallich, now at the isle of France. He is eminent in chemistry, and gives lectures to the youth of the family and school. He is about twenty-six, a married man, with an infant son.

Mr. Robinson states, that after studying some time under the patronage of the Baptist Missionary Society, he, in April 1806, was directed by them to embark in London, on board the American ship Benjamin Franklin, commanded by Captain Wickes, then sailing for India. He is not aware that any application was made to the Honourable Court of Directors on his behalf; no communication was made to him of the reason of this omission, but we apprehend it to be similar to that already mentioned by Messrs. Lawson and Johns.

Mr. Robinson's conduct has been peaceable and



correct since he has resided in Bengal. On hearing that the late Dr. Leyden and Mr. Raffles, the present Lieutenant-Governor of Java, had expressed a strong wish for one of the Serampore Missionaries, to go to Java, to instruct the numerous Dutch and Malay Christians there, he expressed a wish to go thither. And in January, on his presenting a petition to the Right Honourable the Governor General in Council, for permission to embark for Java, a letter was received from the Chief Secretary to Government, which we have reason to think was consumed with other papers in the late dreadful fire: the substance of which was, however, that this Government did not interfere in the affairs of Java; but, that his Lordship in Council, felt no objection to Mr. Robinson's proceeding to Java, being assured that Mr. Robinson would conduct himself agreeably to the laws of that Settlement. In consequence of this letter from Government, Mr. Robinson proceeded for Java, but was driven back by stress of weather: he has been seeking a passage again for several months, and has in the mean time applied himself to the study of the Dutch and Malay languages. He intends, on his arrival there, to open an English school. He is about thirty; a married man, and has two infant daughters.

I have sent a copy of the official communication to Mr. May; with whom, however, we are not connected. He informs me, that as he is residing at Chinsurah under the permission of Government, obtained through the Commissioner of that settle-

ment, he should be happy to furnish any information Government may be pleased to require of him through that channel.

I have the honour to remain,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

(Signed) JOSHUA MARSHMAN.

Serampore,  
January 30, 1813.

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No. XIV.

*To Mr. J. Marshman.*

SIR,

Public Department.

I AM directed by the Right Honourable the Governor General in Council, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 30th of January last, regarding Messrs. Lawson, Johns, and Robinson; and to inform you, that, as it is contrary to the positive orders of the Honourable the Court of Directors, for the Government to permit British subjects, who came out to India without their express permission, to remain in this country; his Lordship in Council, under all the circumstances of their cases, does not feel himself warranted in acceding to the indulgence solicited by you in their behalf.

Messrs. Lawson, Johns, and Robinson, will therefore be respectively desired to prepare them-



selves to embark for England in one of the ships of the next fleet, expected to sail from this port by the 1st of April next.\*

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C. M. RICKETTS,

Secretary to the Government.

Council Chamber,  
March 5, 1813.

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No. XV.

*To Mr. William Johns.*

SIR,

Public Department.

THE Right Honourable the Governor General in Council having been informed, that you came out to this country without the permission of the Honourable the Court of Directors, I am directed to desire, in conformity to the orders of the Honourable Court respecting unlicensed British subjects found residing within the Company's territories in India, that you will prepare to return

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\* Thus, by this peremptory and unexpected order, were three families, one of whom had resided more than six years in Bengal, commanded to proceed to England, and twenty-six days only allowed to obtain passages and dispose of their property, without the slightest blame attaching to them; except, that they had not official leave from the Honourable Court of Directors to stay.

to England in one of the ships of the next fleet expected to sail from this port, on or about the 1st of April next.\*

I am, Sir, Your obedient servant,

C. M. RICKETTS,

Secretary to the Government.

Fort William, March 5, 1813.

The same order was addressed to Messrs. Robinson and Lawson.

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No. XVI.

Prior to the receipt of No. 15, which was on the evening of the 12th, the following summons reached Serampore.

*To Messrs. Lawson, Johns, and Robinson,  
Missionaries, Serampore.*

GENTLEMEN,

YOUR personal attendance is required at the Police Office, on Saturday the 13th inst. in order that a communication may be made to you, in consequence of further directions which the Magistracy of Calcutta has received from the Right Honourable the Governor General in Council.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) CHARLES F. MARTYN, Magistrate.

Police Office,  
Calcutta, March 12, 1813.

*Examined, J. Samuel.*

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\* That is, in nineteen days, as the order was not issued till a week after its date.



No. XVII.

To this W. Johns wrote the following answer.

*To C. F. Martyn, Esq. &c.*

SIR,

I HAVE this moment received an order to attend at your office on the 13th. The shortness of the notice will preclude my waiting on you at the time specified; and, when you recollect the nature of my official engagements, I doubt not you will excuse my inability. I will do it with all readiness as early as I possibly can.

As I suppose the nature of the business for which you wish to see Mr. Lawson, is the same as that concerning me, you will I hope concede to him a similar indulgence. Mr. Robinson is not with us.

I am, Sir,

with due respect,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM JOHNS,

Acting Surgeon to the  
Danish Prisoners of War.

Serampore,  
March 12, 1813.

On the following day W. Johns addressed a letter to Mr. Forbes the Commissioner.

No. XVIII.

SIR,

Serampore, March 13, 1813.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the copy of a letter which I yesterday received from one of the Secretaries to Government, requiring my immediate return to Europe. Having been appointed to the discharge of the Medical duties in this Settlement during the absence of Dr. Wallich, and he not being returned, I am at a loss what to do, it being very contrary to my wishes immediately to return with my family to Europe.

Your commands, on this occasion, will be very thankfully received by,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

WILLIAM JOHNS,

Acting Surgeon to the  
Danish Prisoners of War.

*To Gordon Forbes, Esq.*

*Commissioner for the Foreign Settlements.*

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On this day, Saturday the 13th, another summons having arrived from Mr. Martyn, Messrs. Marshman and Lawson attended at the Calcutta Police Office; and, on Mr. Lawson's hesitating to sign a paper, engaging to return to England,



Mr. Martyn, the Magistrate, ordered him into custody, and sent him, under an escort of Seapoys, to the prison, where he remained some hours, till an order for his release was obtained from Mr. Secretary Ricketts.

In consequence of the Commissioner's instructions not to take any other step for the present, on Monday a second letter was addressed to the Magistrate at Calcutta.

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No. XIX.

*To C. F. Martyn, Esq. Magistrate, &c.  
Calcutta.*

SIR,

SINCE I had the honour to address you, I have had an interview with the Commissioner for these Settlements. I beg respectfully to inform you, that having made known to him your requisition, he has commanded me to take no further steps in the business until he shall direct me ; and, he was further pleased to say, that, as my official duties forbid my absenting myself at this time from Serampore, that the responsibility of my non-appearance would rest with him.

In addition to this, I can assure you, that the very dangerous circumstances of some of

my patients at this time, prevent my leaving Serampore.

I am, Sir, with due respect,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM JOHNS,

Acting Surgeon to the  
Danish Prisoners of War.

*10<sup>th</sup>* Serampore,  
March 2, 1813.

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On the following day a packet came from Mr.  
Martyn, viz. Nos. 20, 21, 22.

No. XX.

*To Mr. William Johns.*

SIR,

1. I HAVE received your letter, acquainting me, that the Commissioner at Serampore has directed you not to repair to Calcutta, as you have been required to do, and that he would take upon himself the responsibility of your non-appearance at the Police Office.

2. The Commissioner is probably not aware of the predicament in which you stand ; and, as you make use of his name, it may be necessary you should apprise him, that the object I had in desiring you to come to Calcutta, was to communicate in person to you, an order of the Right Honourable the Governor General in Council, which has been



received by the Magistracy here, that you should take your departure from this country by one of the Indiamen, expected to be dispatched about the 1st of April next.

3. As you represent that your absence from Serampore, at the present juncture, would be productive of very dangerous circumstances to some of your patients, I send the enclosed paper for your signature, which will prevent you from being put to the personal inconvenience of repairing to the Presidency. The document expresses nothing more than that the order for departure has been communicated to you, and that you will obey.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

C. F. MARTYN, *Magistrate.*

Police Office, *Calcutta*,  
March 16, 1813.

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This letter was accompanied with the extracts from the proceedings of Government, and the letter from Government to the Magistrates. The following are copies.

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No. XXI.

*To J. Elliot, Esq. and the other Magistrates of  
Calcutta.*

GENTLEMEN,

Public Department, Law.

I AM directed by the Right Honourable the Governor General in Council, to transmit for your information and guidance, the accompanying extract

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from the proceedings of Government in the Law department of this day's date, and to desire that you will be careful to cause Messrs. Johns, Lawson, and Robinson, to embark for Europe at the period specified, applying, should circumstances appear to you to render it necessary, to Government in due time, previously to the sailing of the fleet, for the warrant which the Governor General is, in cases of this nature, authorised to issue.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. M. RICKETTS,

*Secretary to the Government.*

Council Chamber,  
March 5, 1813.

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No. XXII.

Extracts from the proceedings of the Right Honourable the Governor General in Council, in the Law Department, dated March 5, 1813:

Read a letter from Mr. J. Marshman, dated the 30th of January, 1813.

THE Right Honourable the Governor General in Council observed, That Messrs. Lawson, Johns, and Robinson, came out to this country without the permission of the Honourable the Court of Directors, and as it is contrary to their positive orders, for this Government to permit British subjects, who arrive in India without the express permission, to remain in this country,



RESOLVED, Therefore, in pursuance of the powers vested in the Governor General, by the Act of Parliament, that Messrs. Lawson, Johns, and Robinson, be required, as persons residing in India without a licence, to proceed to England in one of the ships of the fleet, expected to sail from this port on or about the first of April next.

ORDERED, accordingly, That, Messrs. Lawson, Johns, and Robinson, be respectively required to comply with the above requisition.

ORDERED, That a communication to the foregoing effect be made to Mr. Marshman.

ORDERED, That a copy of the above Resolutions be transmitted to the Magistrates of Calcutta, and, that they be further informed, that the Governor General in Council, desires, that they will be careful to cause Messrs. Lawson, Johns, and Robinson, to embark for Europe at the period abovementioned: applying, should circumstances appear to them to render it necessary, to Government, in due time, previously to the sailing of the fleet, for the warrant, which the Governor General is, in cases of this nature, authorised to issue.

[A true Extract.]

(Signed)

C. M. RICKETTS.

*Secretary to the Government.*

No. XXIII.

The following is a copy of the acknowledgement which Mr. Martyn sent to be signed.

*Serampore, March 16, 1813.*

I ACKNOWLEDGE to have seen and read the Government orders of the 5th March, 1813, requiring me to embark for England, by one of the ships expected to sail from this port on or about the beginning of April next, and which order I will obey.

WILLIAM JOHNS.

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To the letter of Mr. Martyn, Mr. Johns returned the following answer with the above papers. Mr. Lawson, having previously signed at Calcutta.

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No. XXIV.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a letter from you, covering certain documents.

Be pleased, Sir, to accept my thanks for the indulgence you have shewn me in my official capacity. I have signed the acknowledgement which you desired, and do now enclose it.

I am, Sir, with due respect,

Your most obedient Servant,

WILLIAM JOHNS.

*Acting Surgeon, &c.*

*Serampore, March 16, 1813,*

*To C. F. Martyn, Esq.  
Magistrate.*

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The same evening Mr. Marshman waited on Captain Taylor, Aid de Camp to Lord Minto, to



propose a private interview with his Lordship, hoping thereby to get the repeal of the order in favour of Messrs. Johns and Lawson, and if not of both, of Mr. Lawson, he being useful as an artist, and the next morning received the following note,

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No. XXV.

MY DEAR SIR,

HAVING mentioned to Lord Minto your wish to have an audience, and, having explained the circumstances you mentioned last night, and those in your letter of this morning, having also submitted to his Lordship the commencement of the Chinese work: I am directed by his Lordship to say, that as he is fully acquainted with your wishes, and the point you wish to carry; he thinks his having an interview with you or Mr. Carey on the subject, would be useless. The order for Mr. Johns and Mr. Lawson to proceed to England, is an act of his Lordship *in Council*, in compliance with the strict injunctions of the Honourable the Court of Directors, and any mitigation or modification of these orders can only take place *in Council*, in the regular way. His Lordship will direct your application to be brought forward again for further consideration, and an answer will be given on the

subject by the Secretary of Government, in that department to which the business belongs.

I am, dear Sir,

Your obedient faithful Servant,

T. W. TAYLOR.

March 17, 1813.

*To Mr. Marshman.*

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No communication having been made from Commissioner Forbes, Mr. Bie, one of the Danish Magistrates in the settlement, addressed the following letter to that gentleman.

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No. XXVI.

*To Gordon Forbes, Esq. Commissioner, &c.*

MY DEAR SIR,

THE night before last I received the enclosed note from Dr. Johns, from which you will see, that he writes to have positive orders to proceed to Europe, and yesterday, on his return from Calcutta, he wrote to me that he had already treated about his passage in the Lord Castlereagh, which I also beg to enclose. I have had a conference with him this morning, he mentions that he had received no official communication yet from you, but that Mr. Adams had told Mr. Marshman that a warrant had been issued to take him down to Calcutta; which, I should think, must be erroneous, and that he would receive an official order from you whether he was permitted to stay, or to proceed. He is not only himself distressed, but the whole settlement



are interested in it, and may feel sensibly for his loss, as there are many now under his care that cannot possibly dispense with his attention. I have told him not to take any measure to leave the settlement before he hears from you. I therefore hope you will excuse my troubling you with this.

I am, my dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

O. BIE.

Serampore, March 28, 1813.

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Before any answer could be received to this, the following reached Serampore.

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No. XXVII.

*To Mr. William Johns.*

SIR,

I HEREWITH transmit for your information and guidance, the enclosed copy of a letter from the Secretary to Government.

I am Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

GORDON FORBES,  
*Commissioner.*

Chinsurah, March 28, 1813.

## No. XXVIII.

*To Gordon Forbes, Esq. Commissioner at  
Serampore.*

SIR,

Foreign Department.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant ; submitting, for the consideration of Government, a letter to you addressed from Mr. William Johns, who lately received the permission of the Governor General, in Council, to remain in India, until the pleasure of the Right Honourable the Court of Directors should be known, stating, that he has received an order from Government, requiring him to return to England by the fleet under dispatch, and to acquaint you, in reply, that the permission which was granted to Mr. Johns was revoked, in consequence of its having subsequently come to the knowledge of the Governor General in Council, that Mr. Johns purposely abstained from applying to the Honourable Court for leave to come to India, because he was aware that it would not be granted to him. His coming out, under such circumstances, must be considered to be tantamount to proceeding against the orders of the Honourable Court of Directors, and consequently the permission obtained under a concealment of facts, the knowledge of which, by Government, would have prevented its being granted, can no longer be in force.

I am accordingly directed to desire, that you will



inform Mr. Johns that he must conform to the orders of Government, communicated to him by Mr. Secretary Ricketts, to return to England by the present fleet.

I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your most obedient humble Servant,

(Signed) J. ADAM,  
*Secretary to Government.*

Fort William, March 26, 1813.

[A true Copy.]

GORDON FORBES, *Commissioner.*

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No. XXIX.

[Private.]

MY DEAR SIR,

THE accompanying orders of Government have just reached me. Should you be desirous to defer your departure until the next fleet, I shall be happy to submit your application to Government, together with any representations in your favour on the part of the inhabitants of Serampore.\*

You must be aware that the time does not admit of delay, and I hope to hear from you in the course of the day.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours, faithfully,

GORDON FORBES.

Chinsurah, March 28, 1813.

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\* The gentlemen of the settlement had intended to petition the government, for the continuance of Mr. Johns at Serampore.

## No. XXX

MY DEAR SIR,

BELIEVE me, I shall ever retain a grateful sense of all your kindness, and also of those friends in this settlement, whose concern for my welfare has been repeatedly shewn.

Things have now gone so far, and the time so short, that, concern for the personal comfort of Mrs. Johns, prevents my wishing to delay our voyage any longer; and, on this account, I am willing to relinquish those generous efforts which my friend Mr. ———, and other gentlemen in the settlement, entreat may be made. I submit to the Divine Providence, and trust, you will never be forgotten by Him, whose I am, and whom I wish to serve.

I have the honour to be, my dear Sir,

Yours affectionately and obediently;

WILLIAM JOHNS.

Serampore, March 28, 1813:

*To Gordon Forbes, Esq.*

## No. XXXI.

*To C. M. Ricketts, Esq. Secretary to Government.*

SIR,

HAVING engaged a passage for myself, Mrs. Johns, and little boy, on board the Lord Castlereagh, agreeably to the orders of Government respecting



me, I have the honour to apply to you for the necessary passes.

I am, Sir, with all respect,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM JOHNS.

Calcutta, March 27, 1813.

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On the 29th, Monday, we left Serampore, three days only after the date of the final order—the following morning we departed from Calcutta—On the 1st April, reached the Lord Castlereagh at Saugor Roads—and on Sunday, the 4th, weighed anchor.

Copied at *St. Helena*,  
August 19, 1813.

THE END.











